UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Forests.

Forest land now under tea and coffee plantations.

212 *Q.*—Mr. M. Ratnaswami: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total area of land which was once forest land now given over to tea and coffee plantations;

(*b*) whether the conversion of forest land into tea and coffee plantation has had any injurious effects on the climate, rainfall and timber resources of the Presidency;

(*c*) the total area of forest land converted into tea and coffee plantations within the last five years; and

(*d*) whether Government intend to allow any more forest land to be converted into tea and coffee plantations?

A.—(*a*) The Government have no information.

(*b*) The Government have no reason to think so.

(*c*) The Government have no information.

(*d*) Applications will be considered on their merits.

The District Forest office at Bellary.

213 *Q.*—Mr. P. Siva Rao: Will the hon. the Home Member, the hon. the Minister for Education and the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) what use the Government will make of the building where the District Forest office at Bellary is now situate;

(*b*) whether the S.P.C.A. of Bellary applied for the use of the building in question for the location of the 'Veterinary' hospital;

(*c*) whether also the Education Department applied for its use for the location of the girls' school;

(*d*) whether there is a great need for a building for a girls' school in Bellary; and

(*e*) whether it has been decided to whom it should be transferred; if so, to whom?

A.—(*a*) The Government are unable to make any statement in the matter at present.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) & (*d*) The Government have no information.

(*e*) No decision has been made.

Irrigation.

The Tungabhadra Project.

214 *Q.*—Mr. G. Rameswara Rao: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) what is the amount sanctioned for the detailed investigation of the Tungabhadra project and spent as a first instalment;

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(b) what is the further amount that has been sanctioned and how long would the special staff work with the allotment and when it is expected that the investigation would be finished;

(c) whether the allotment covers the cost of scientific instruments such as 'levels and plan tables' and, if so, what portion of the allotment this covers;

(d) whether it is proposed to take the Bellary West canal from near Kurnvatti in Harpanahalli taluk as far as Guntakal and thence to make branches for the benefit of Gooty and Tadpatri taluks; and

(e) the actual cost of the establishment charges estimated for a complete detailed investigation of the whole scheme and whether it is provided for in the budget of 1925-26?

A.—(a) & (b) By "Tungabhadra Project" the hon. Member presumably refers to the Bellary West Canal Project. The amount spent on its investigation as a first instalment was Rs. 17,443. The amount sanctioned for the entire investigation including the first instalment is Rs. 35,000. The investigation is expected to be completed in May next.

(c) Yes. Separate figures for this item is not available.

(d) As at present designed the proposal is to construct an anicut across the Tungabhadra about 4 furlongs above Kuruvatti village, Harpanahalli taluk, and to take off a channel for a distance of about 70 miles as far as Gauripuram vanka at the foot of the Sandur range. The channel will not extend to Guntakal, nor will branches be taken to Gooty and Tadpatri taluks.

(e) The total cost of the investigation including establishment required for the complete investigation of the scheme is estimated at Rs. 40,000. The outlay during the current year is estimated at Rs. 27,500 and the balance Rs. 12,500 is proposed to be allotted in the budget estimate for 1925-26.

Deputy Collectors.

Revision of the cadre of Deputy Collectors.

215 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that in 1911 the cadre of Deputy Collectors was revised so as to make it self-contained as in the other provinces and to minimise the period of acting service of Deputy Collectors and also to minimise the disadvantages to those in the consequent chain of arrangements;

(b) whether the addition of 2? permanent posts to the cadre as stated in the answer to question No. 1268 (c) was based on the average number of acting and temporary posts at the time and if so what that average number was;

(c) the average number of acting and temporary posts during the last three years ending December 1924; and

(d) if the average of the last three years exceeds the average taken into account in 1911—

(1) whether it has resulted in the increase in the number of acting Deputy Collectors from 9 in 1912 to 38 in 1924 [vide answer to question No. 1267 (b)]; and

(ii) whether the Government propose to add to the permanent cadre to meet the increased demand?

A.—(*a*) Yes.
(*b*) Yes. The average number was 22.
(*c*) 43.
(*d*) (i) Yes.
(ii) The facts will be examined.

Reduction in the strength of Deputy Collectors.

216 *Q.*—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: With reference to the answer to question No. 1267 (*a*), will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government obtained the orders of the Secretary of State for India to reduce the strength of the cadre of Deputy Collectors from 160 in 1921 to 136 in 1924; and

(*b*) whether they would make such additions as may be necessary in the present circumstances to the cadre of Deputy Collectors without exceeding the strength of 1921?

A.—(*a*) No. The orders of the Secretary to State were not required.
(*b*) Additions are made to the cadre whenever new charges are created. No permanent additions are contemplated immediately.

Irrigation.

Supply of water to the kasam feeding the wet lands of Allapuram.

217 *Q.*—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the kasam feeding the wet lands of Allapuram in Vellore taluk, North Arcot district, was interfered with when the Otteri water was taken for water-supply in the Vellore municipality;

(*b*) whether the old tank was sold away when this kasam was constructed;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that there was a proposal to acquire the tank which was sold and to get it repaired in view of the scarcity of the supply of water to this kasam;

(*d*) whether the ryots had applied for the conversion of their 'wet' lands to 'dry' if proper supply of water cannot be secured to them; and

(*e*) what orders, if any, have been passed on this petition?

A.—The Government have no information.

Land Revenue.

Collection of interest on arrears of revenue in Tanjore.

218 *Q.*—Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Collector of Tanjore has issued orders for collecting interest on arrears of revenue of 1923–24;

(*b*) if so, the dates of the various orders on the matter;

(*c*) whether demand for interest has been made and collected on arrears

which have been paid before the demand for interest;

(d) whether the Collector has been authorized by the Government to make such demands; and

(e) whether there have been any cases, except in the Tanjore district in the present year, when demand for interest was made after arrears of revenue had been paid?

A.—(a) & (d) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 84.

(b) 16th February 1924 and 11th April 1924.

(c) & (e) The Government have not heard of such cases.

Land assigned to ex-military men in the Presidency.

219 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state the total area of land assigned to ex-military men in the Madras Presidency?

A.—The Government have not yet full information. It is being collected.

Village Establishments.

Report on the cancellation of 're-grouping' of village vattams.

220 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether he has received the report on the cancellation of the 're-grouping' of village vattams, as desired by a resolution of this Council, from the special officer deputed for the purpose; and

(b) whether the same will be placed, with the orders of Government thereon, on the table of this House?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 86.

Co-operative Societies.

Report regarding Arni-Kolathur Co-operative Society.

221 Q.—Mr T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether the report called for in connexion with interpellation No. 1336 regarding the Arni-Kolathur Co-operative Society, vide Council Proceedings, dated 3rd December 1924, has been received; and

(b) if so, whether he will lay the same on the table of the House?

A.—The report was received and the information was furnished to the hon. Member on 30th January 1925.

Report regarding refusal of long-term loan to the Perundurai Co-operative Society.

222 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether the report called for in connexion with question No. 1337 regarding the refusal of a long-term loan to the Perundurai Co-operative Society has been received; and

(b) if so, whether he will lay the same on the table?

A.—The report called for was received and the information furnished to the hon. Member on 29th January 1925.

Co-operative Credit Societies.

223 *Q*.—Mr. MUHAMMAD MOOSA SAIT: With reference to answer to question No. 437 (5), will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state if the scheme has since been approved by the Government?

A.—The scheme has not yet been finally approved.

Establishment of land mortgage banks.

224 *Q*.—Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any decision has been reached regarding the proposal to establish land mortgage banks in this Presidency; and

(*b*) if the answer be in the affirmative, the number of banks proposed to be established and their places and to lay on the table, order, if any passed, by Government?

A.—(*a*) If funds are available it is proposed to open four land mortgage banks in 1925–26.

(*b*) The places provisionally selected for opening banks are Conjeeveram in Chinglepnt district, Ambur in North Arcot district and Kallakurichi in South Arcot. It is hoped also to open a bank in Kistna or Salem district.

II

PROGRAMME OF BUSINESS IN MARCH.

An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the member.

*The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I think hon. Members have had notices from the Secretary of the dates connected with the Budget. It is usual to announce them in public and I do so here—

11-15 a.m.

Presentation of the estimates to the Legislative Council.	2nd March 1925 (Monday).
Discussion of the estimates in the Legislative Council.	4th, 5th and 6th March 1925.
Latest date for the receipt of notices from non-official members of the Legislative Council for reduction or omission of grants.	3 p.m. on 9th March 1925.
Voting of grants by the Legislative Council ...	16th to 27th March 1925 inclusive; that is, ten days excluding the 22nd March (Sunday) and 25th March (Telugu New year's day).
Voting on further demands for grants	30th March 1925."